

COMING SOON TO THE  
FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
IN ST. LUCIE!



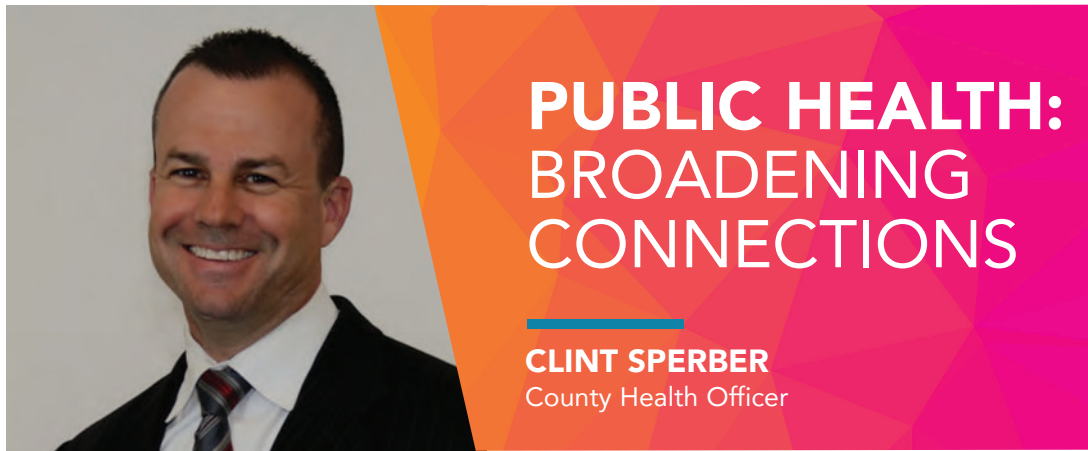
# DOH-ST. LUCIE PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW 2016

BROADENING  
CONNECTIONS



[www.stluciecountyhealth.com](http://www.stluciecountyhealth.com)





Dear St. Lucie,

Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie (FDOH-St. Lucie) is committed to working for you. Our dedicated staff works on your behalf to improve health in our great county. Public health has a diverse portfolio of programs and activities, each designed to protect and improve the health of St. Lucie's citizens. During the past year, Department staff continued working together with community partners to provide access to valuable health programs and services, educating citizens on healthier living and building broader connections that will allow public health practitioners to collaborate across sectors in innovative and sustainable ways. These partnerships are ultimately what ensures the success of public health initiatives.

For instance, the health department is an active member of The Roundtable of St. Lucie, a group of St. Lucie County leaders who work together to accomplish system change resulting in improved outcomes for St. Lucie youth. It is very rewarding working with community partners and knowing we are making a difference. This past year we started a process called Fetal Infant Mortality Review to analyze root causes of infant health disparities; we adopted an evidenced-based campaign called 5210 Let's Go to raise public awareness about the importance of healthy eating and exercise for children through schools and child care centers, and worked closely with the United Way St. Lucie County to identify and focus on health priorities.

Moving forward we will also concentrate on programs to increase childhood vaccines to prevent disease and keep children protected from health threats, build a framework to increase health equity to ensure everyone has an opportunity to achieve healthier outcomes, decrease inhaled nicotine use to provide a longer and healthier life for St. Lucie citizens, and work with partners to develop and implement a strategy to combat the heroin epidemic.

Thank you for continuing to put your trust in FDOH-St. Lucie. Our dedicated team of 175 staff will continue to work in our community-both visibly and behind the scenes-to ensure improved health for all in St. Lucie.

Clint Sperber, MPA  
Administrator and Health Officer

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY LOCATIONS

### FORT PIERCE

714 Avenue C • Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
(772) 462-3800 (772) 462-3900 (WIC)

### GWENDA THOMPSON TRADES CAREER CENTER

3855 S. U.S. 1  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982  
(772) 462-3800

### PORT ST. LUCIE

#### LARRY J. LEE PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

5150 NW Milner Drive • Port St. Lucie, FL 34983  
(772) 462-3800

### ST. LUCIE WEST

531 NW Lake Whitney Place  
Suite 106  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
(772) 462-3800 (772) 462-3900 (WIC)

### ST. LUCIE WEST PEDIATRIC DENTAL CLINIC (FOREVER SMILES)

537 NW Lake Whitney Place  
Suite 101  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
772-462-3800

[www.stluciecountyhealth.com](http://www.stluciecountyhealth.com)

## 2017 Healthy Weight Community Champion



### PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Jennifer Harris, Monica Graziani, Amy Griffin, Diana Waite, Murriah Dekle, Sue McNicho, Ceretha León, Clint Sperber and Howard Tipton

### St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners:

Linda Bartz, Cathy Townsend, Chris Dzadovsky, Frannie Hutchinson and Tod Mowery

The City of Port St. Lucie was recognized by Florida Department of Health as a 2017 Healthy Weight Community Champion for the second consecutive year.

*Photo not available at the time of publication.*

**EDITOR:** Arlease Hall, Public Information Officer and Community Relations Director

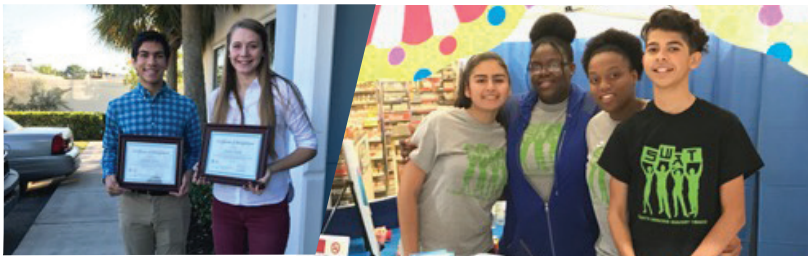
**PHOTOS:** Courtesy of St. Lucie County Media Relations and Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County.

### BRANDING AND CREATIVE SERVICES:

Comet Media Group [www.cometmg.com](http://www.cometmg.com) 772-480-3414



To improve the well-being of St. Lucie County residents, Healthy St. Lucie expanded their infrastructure this past year. A Food Policy Council was established to assess how our community supports healthy eating and a Physical Activity Council was formed to promote physical activity opportunities and community challenges. To learn more go to the Healthy St. Lucie website at: [www.healthystlucie.org](http://www.healthystlucie.org)



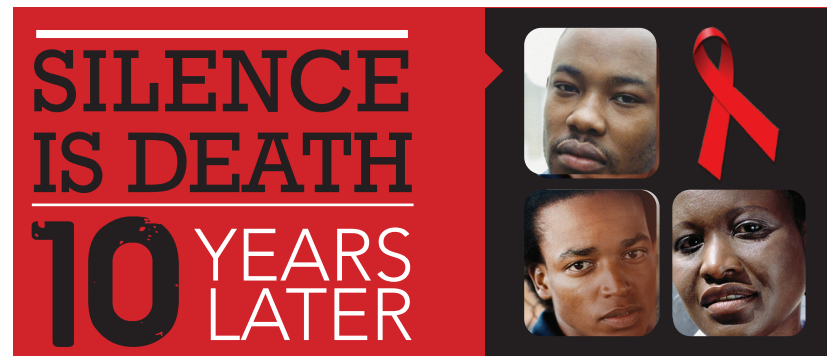
#### STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO

The St. Lucie County SWAT has participated in seven (7) events with community partners reaching over 1000 youth and adults with tobacco control messaging. Sebastian Suarez and Maddie Chabab from Lincoln Park Academy were elected to the state Youth Advocacy Board. Sebastian currently serves as the statewide Chair. Recruitment efforts are ongoing for youth ages 11-17 or grades 6th -12th.

#### TOBACCO FREE PARTNERSHIP OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

While many tout e-cigarettes' ability to help smokers quit, the Food and Drug Administration has not approved electronic cigarettes as a quit aid. In 2015, nearly 6 in 10 e-cigarette users were also conventional cigarette smokers. Tobacco Free Florida has effective tools and resources to help you Quit Your Way.

Visit Tobacco Free Florida at: [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com)



St Lucie County (SLC) was highlighted in the **SILENCE IS DEATH** Report in 2006 where severe racial and ethnic **HIV/AIDS**, disparities reached epidemic proportion.

In 2005, St Lucie County had the highest number of blacks living with HIV in the State. One in 35 black residents was diagnosed at this time, compared to only one in 710 whites. A huge disparity existed between the two racial groups. During this time, HIV/AIDS was listed as the leading cause of death among black males aged 25-44yo. This was a crisis that caused a call to action in our community. Now, ten years later, we are proud to say that through the commitment of the community and strong leaders, we have had the largest decrease in new HIV infections in the State.

#### St. Lucie County 10 Years Later!

We now rank number 19 out of 67 counties, a huge accomplishment, yet there is still much work to do. If you would like to become part of the solution for this ongoing public health threat you many do so by joining our Consortia, Care Network of the Treasure Coast (CNTC) and the Prevention Planning Group (PPG).

Remember! "We Cannot Fix What We Will Not Face"  
—James Baldwin

For additional information call: **772-462-3925**



In 2016, there were 1,037 travel associated cases of Zika virus in the State of Florida with 11 of those in St. Lucie County residents. The type of mosquitos that carry and spread Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viruses live in St. Lucie County. If you get a mosquito bite, watch for fever, rash, joint pain, and redness in the eyes. If you suspect you are sick, call your doctor or the Health Department. As summer approaches and the mosquito population rises, it is important to prevent mosquito bites and protect yourself against Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases. Drain standing water in your yard, cover yourself with light colored clothing and use an EPA approved mosquito repellant.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Our school health nurses provide services for students in the St. Lucie County Public Schools and consult with private schools. Services include health screenings for growth and development, dental, scoliosis, hearing and vision. We also assess and monitor for communicable disease as well as the provision of health education to prevent disease.

We partnered with Healthy Schools LLC and the St. Lucie County Public Schools to support flu vaccines in school settings.

### HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR KG, 1ST, 3RD AND 6TH GRADES:

**12,066** – Vision | **8,059** – Hearing | **2,881** – Scoliosis  
**8,171** – Growth and Development

### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES:

**27,453** – Nursing Assessments | **99,394** – Staff/Parent Consultations  
**1,854** – Care Plan Development

### CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

Our WIC and School Readiness programs review immunization records on all clients to ensure that the immunizations are up to date for both WIC clients and those in childcare settings. We are currently working on a new initiative to provide vaccines on site at some childcare facilities.

Provided **8,068** childhood immunizations at our health department.

## LET'S GO!



- 5** or more fruits and vegetables
- 2** hours or less recreational screen time
- 1** hour or more of physical activity
- 0** sugary drinks, more water

## 2016 WIC SUCCESSES

(Women, Infant and  
Children Program)



■ WIC provides essential nutrition support for pregnancy, infancy and early childhood. Research shows WIC played a key role in reducing obesity in preschoolers nationwide.

■ Obesity and overweight in children age two to five years dropped by 7.0% between December 2009 and December 2016, reaching a low of 26% for St. Lucie WIC.

■ WIC provided nutrition counseling and nutritious foods to 11,898 eligible pregnant, breastfeeding, post-partum women, infants and children under age 5.

■ WIC St. Lucie West office "new" hours are Monday 10am to 7pm and Tuesday to Friday 8am to 5pm. Ft Pierce office hours are: Monday 9:30am to 6:30pm and Tuesday to Friday 8am to 5pm.

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## PEDIATRIC DENTAL

We are taking a bite out of the need for dental care in St Lucie. Knowing there are over 38,000 children countywide that are uninsured or under-insured, we decided to expand our pediatric dental practice to provide more kids a dental home. Our new 3,500 sq. ft. dental facility in St Lucie West includes seven dental operatories and is filling the void quickly. In our first two full months of operation, we have had over 2,300 visits!

"Our goal is to provide Dental care to our children in the community" said Dr. Ahmad, Dental Director for our Forever Smiles pediatric dental program. Most parents are unaware their kids need to see a dentist for preventative dental procedures at least once a year and schedule regular dental cleanings every 6 months.

As a courtesy, we can check eligibility for under-insured children and get you scheduled for a dental visit, for more information please call:

**772-462-3800, press option 1.**



**SAFE  
KIDS**  
ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Safe Kids St. Lucie Coalition provided education to over 12,000 students and parents participating in summer programs, community and back to school events.

### SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Home Safety – **1,050** | Bike Safety – **3,222** | Pedestrian Safety – **2,991**  
Car Seat Inspection/Installs – **490** | Kids In and Around Cars – **201**  
Fire Safety – **889** | Medication Safety – **100** | Sports Safety – **2,185**  
Water Safety – **1,016**

When the Coalition lost federal funds used to provide discounted car seats to residents in St. Lucie – it was our Children's Services Council who understood the importance of the Child Passenger Safety program and provided the financial support needed to sustain the program.

This past year the Coalition was awarded the Safe Routes to School Grant, which allowed the bicycle and pedestrian safety programs to expand.